

Thank you for your subscription to Rep. Dan Huberty's Newsletter. If you wish to unsubscribe, please use the SafeUnsubscribe option at the bottom of this email.



June 28, 2019

Thank you for subscribing to my e-newsletter. Below you will find updates from federal, state and local agencies. Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us using the contact details listed at the end of this newsletter.

My family and I spent last week on vacation in Toronto, Canada, and the weekend in Cleveland, Ohio, visiting family. It was a much-needed break for all of us and we spent some great time together.

In this edition, you will find information on the historic disaster-related legislation signed by Governor Abbott for Harvey recovery. Included below, you will find a web video with details about the bills and how the 86th Legislature focused on recovery from this disaster and preparation for the future of Texas.

Also below, you will see an introductory video from the Texas Education Agency regarding a new web-series on the implementation of House Bill 3, the plan to transformationally reform public school finance in Texas. This series, "HB3 in 30" will highlight 30 separate provisions of the law and how each will be executed by TEA. Videos will be posted every Thursday to this link. Check weekly to view new content.

Lastly, we have listed below several fun events around the Lake Houston area where you and your family can celebrate the Fourth of July. From fishing to parades to concerts and, of course, firework displays, there are many great opportunities in our community to celebrate our nation's independence. Please note: in observation of Independence Day, both my Capitol & District Offices will be closed Thursday, July 4th, and Friday, July 5th. We will return to the offices on Monday, July 8th.

Should you have questions regarding anything in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us directly using the information provided at the bottom of this email.

Sincerely,







Left: The Huberty Family visiting Toronto, Canada

Right: Rep. & Mrs. Huberty in hometown Parma, OH

# CAPITOL & DISTRICT OFFICES CLOSED: July 4-5, 2019

Both the Capitol and District Offices of State Representative Dan Huberty will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2019, and Friday, July 5, 2019, in observation of Independence Day. We will address any messages received during that time upon our return on Monday, July 8, 2019.

## July 2019 Calendar

Download my July 2019 calendar by clicking the link below. This month is full of events in and around Texas that could be fun or useful to you and your family! This new format allows you to save the document for printing or sending to your family members.

Keep watch for these updated calendars at the beginning of each month. Important local and legislative dates and events will be posted here.



## CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE CALENDAR!

## Harvey Recovery Resources

# Governor Abbott: Prioritizing Disaster Recovery, Ensuring Community Resilience

The Office of Governor Greg Abbott released a web video highlighting disaster relief and preparedness legislation that was signed yesterday in Houston, Texas. The assortment of bills address outstanding needs of relief for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey, and will help prepare Texas for future natural disasters.

"Hurricane Harvey was the most devastating natural disaster in our state's history, and I am grateful to the legislature for stepping up and delivering not only for its victims, but the entire state of Texas," said Governor Abbott. "This important set of bills will not only provide greater relief to those affected by disasters in Texas, but also help prepare our state's capabilities to anticipate and mitigate the impact of future disasters."



# Updates from Austin

Notable Accomplishments of the 86th Session

# Notable accomplishments of the 86TH LEGISLA

#### IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Reformed the broken school finance system by investing \$4.5 Reduced STAAR testing burdens on billion in education reforms, \$2 billion in dynamic pay raises for educators, and reducing recapture by 47%
- · Funded a \$2,000 average 13th check for retired teachers and invested to make the pension actuarially sound
- Devoted \$200 million to make schools safer
- Funded full-day pre-k for low-income students
- students and teachers
- · Improved training for teachers and administrators to respond to safety threats and recognize the warning signs of human trafficking, child abuse and mental health



#### TAXPAYER PROTECTIONS

- Provided \$5 billion in property tax relief
- Improved property tax notice requirements so taxpayers know in real time who is proposing to raise rates, by how much, and when and where they can go to make their voices heard
- Strengthened public hearing requirements in the property tax and Chapter 312 systems, along with oversight of local bond projects
- Empowered voters to authorize property tax increases above 3.5% for most taxing units
- Created a property tax exemption for those affected by a declared disaster and exempted active duty military from facing penalties for late property tax payments

### SEXUAL ASSAULT & TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

- · Dedicated funding to eliminate the rape kit backlog, fight online sex trafficking, and support rape crisis centers
- · Enhanced penalties for online sex trafficking buyers and for certain crimes of sexual assault and harassment
- Doubled the amount of time for a victim of child sex abuse to pursue civil action against their abuser and established civil immunity for those who report sexual misconduct at charitable organizations
- Enhanced tools for law enforcement to identify repeat offenders and sexual assault patterns across jurisdictions
- Prohibited hospitals from destroying sexual assault exam records until 15 years years have passed
- · Directed forfeited proceeds from stash houses to go toward services for human trafficking victims

## MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- · Dedicated \$7.7 billion to mental health and substance abuse intervention
- Created the Texas Mental Health Consortium to foster partnerships between schools, colleges, and universities with mental health programs
- · Established programs to place non-physician mental health professionals at education service centers and expand access to telehealth and child psychiatry networks
- Dedicated funding to train teachers and administrators to identify and intervene when students show signs of mental health issues

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

- · Dedicated over \$2 billion for Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery
- Eased regulatory burdens that slowed response time and debris removal
- Created a disaster task force to improve long-term recovery
- · Improved infrastructure and regional planning efforts to better mitigate, control, and recover from floods
- · Enhanced emergency management training for state and local personnel
- Bolstered public communications channels, data sharing tools and technology to improve disaster management operations

# Notable accomplishments of the 86TH LEGISLATURE

## INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- Increased women's health funding by nearly 25% and dedicated long-term funding for newborn screenings
   Improved access to prenatal and postpartum care for pregnant and new mothers, including treatment for postpartum depression and opioid dependency
- Improved access to medication for children with disabilities, expanded resources for families of medically fragile
  children on Medicaid, and gave parents who adopt a child with a chronic health condition continued access to
  Medicaid services
- Increased transparency on the safety records of child care centers, strengthened the child care license renewal
  process, and established an investigation unit to seek out illegally operating facilities
- Permitted homeless youth, unaccompanied minors, and children in foster care to receive a free copy of their birth
  certificate without parental consent, and ensured pregnant and parenting youth in foster care receive basic
  parenting education

## **HEALTH CARE**

- Addressed shortfalls in Medicaid, foster care, women's health, state hospitals, state supported living centers, and
  correctional managed health care, including over \$145 million for programs for adults and children with intellectual
  or developmental disabilities (IDD) and to increase salaries for Adult Protective Services employees
- Reduced the potential for abuse in nursing homes and long term care facilities by protecting residents from being given antipsychotic medications without appropriate consent
- Established pilot programs to provide long-term support and dental services for those with IDD
- · Raised the age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21 and expanded access to medication that counteracts opioid addiction
- Improved access to health care by requiring private health plans to cover telemedicine and added ride-sharing to the Medicaid medical transportation program
- Banned balance billing, cracked down on price gouging and deceptive advertising at freestanding emergency rooms, and
  passed one of the strongest pharmaceutical drug price transparency laws in the nation



#### DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM

- Dedicated over \$223 million to reduce wait times, improve customer service, hire new employees, and add three additional driver's license offices statewide
- Established the conditional transfer of the program from DPS to the DMV
- Extended the expiration date of a license from 6 to 8 years

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

- · Provided \$6 billion for non-tolled highway construction
- Renewed the Chapter 312 economic development incentive program
- · Created a student loan repayment program for peace officers
- Ended restrictions that kept consumers from buying a case of "beer to go" at breweries
- · Empowered Texas kids to sell lemonade without a permit
- Eased occupational licensing requirements for military spouses
- Allowed for critically-needed water resources to be developed along the gulf coast
- · Increased access to high speed internet in rural areas
- Passed a bill that will give Texans the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment banning a state income tax
- Dedicated revenue to restore county courthouses and fund parks and historical sites across Texas

# TEA Launches "HB3 In 30" Web Video Series

The Texas Education Agency announced the launch of a new web video series, "*HB3 in 30*," to help inform school districts and the public about how to implement the transformative measures in House Bill 3, passed during the 86<sup>th</sup> legislative session.

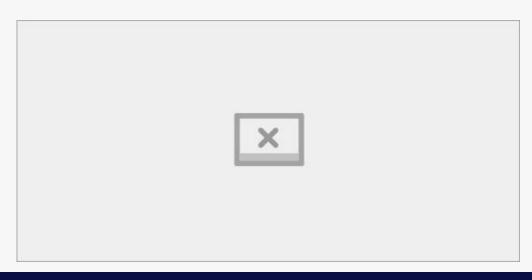
Each video will feature, in roughly 30 minutes, an overview and detailed explanation of a specific provision in House Bill 3, as well as information on how TEA is working to implement applicable changes to public education required by this new legislation.

"House Bill 3 is a groundbreaking and innovative piece of legislation," said Education Commissioner Mike Morath. "This new law has been designed to support our teachers, focus on learning and student outcomes, increase funding and equity, and reduce property taxes. TEA is committed to ensuring educators and school district officials know both what changes to expect as a result of HB3 and that TEA is working hard to provide them the resources and information necessary to prepare them for the next school year."

Videos will be released every Thursday and will be accompanied by supporting documents available for download. A full schedule of weekly release dates, a summary of HB3, frequently asked questions, and implementation guidance for school districts can be found on the TEA <a href="House Bill">House Bill</a> 3 information site.

"HB3 In 30" was kicked off with an introductory video below by Commissioner Morath, expressing his gratitude for the attention given by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker

of the House, and members of the legislature to public education and a summary of the successes in House Bill 3.



# **Legislative Update:**

HB 76 - Relating to cardiac assessments of high school participants in extracurricular athletic activities sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League



In this weekly section, you will find bills authored by Rep. Huberty that successfully passed both chambers and were sent to Governor Abbott for his approval. Governor Abbott has signed all of the 11 House Bills and both of the Senate Bills Rep. Huberty successfully sent to him. The last bill highlighted here was HB 3913, a future flood victim protection bill. In this edition, you will find more information about Rep. Huberty's HB 76, a life-saving measure for UIL student athletes in Texas.

HB 76, or the Cody Stephens bill, is a life-saving measure for UIL student athletes. The bill, which Governor Abbott signed into law on June 14, 2019, is named in memory of Cody Stephens, an otherwise healthy high school senior who passed away from an undetected heart condition in May 2012, only weeks before his graduation from Crosby High School. Cody proudly wore the number 76 for the CHS Cougar football team and was looking forward to furthering his football career on a scholarship at Tarleton State University that fall. His parents, Scott & Melody Stephens, formed The Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation in his honor to raise awareness of Sudden Cardiac Arrest and prevent other families from experiencing any similar loss or heartache. Chairman Huberty was honored to carry this bill for Scott and Melody. They and supporters of GBOGH Foundation have worked tirelessly for five sessions to pass this legislation.

The bill, as signed into law, provides parents or guardians of student athletes information on Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and the opportunity to request an electrocardiogram (ECG) screening as part of the required physical evaluation to participate in UIL-sponsored athletic activities.

After providing the information, school districts are required to ensure that student athletes have access to an ECG either by paying for the exams directly, through a partnership with a nonprofit entity or permitting a student to be tested by their healthcare professional. The final passage and future implementation of this law will save the lives of Texas student athletes just like Cody.

To learn more about Cody, the efforts of his family and supporters or the memorial foundation formed in his honor, please visit: <a href="https://www.codystephensfoundation.org/">https://www.codystephensfoundation.org/</a>.

To see a list of Rep. Huberty's legislation from the 86th Session, click here.

## Governor Abbott's Veto Statements



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

## Statements on Bills Vetoed by Governor Greg Abbott

Click here to view a list and read statements on all items vetoed by Governor Greg Abbott after the 86th Legislative Session.

#### Read more

gov.texas.gov

# Updates from Washington, DC

FTC: Operation "Call it Quits"

# FTC, Law Enforcement Partners Announce New Crackdown on...

The Federal Trade Commission and its law enforcement partners today announced a major crackdown on illegal robocalls, including 94 actions targeting operations around the country that are responsible for more than one billion calls pitching a...

#### Read more

www.ftc.gov

# Updates from the District

## Lake Houston Area July 4th Events

July 4th in the Lake Houston area always brings a multitude of opportunities to celebrate our nation's Independence and 2019 is no different! Please see a list of events below compiled by our office of events in the community. This does not represent an exhaustive list but rather information available online.

Wednesday, July 3rd

- 5:30 PM: Independence Day Extravaganza
  - Kingwood Country Club

## Thursday, July 4th

- 6 AM: Kingwood Civic Club Fishing Rodeo
  - Foster's Mill Pond
- 8:30 AM: Atascocita Fourth of July Community Parade
  - Shores Park
- 9 AM: Kingwood Civic Club Bike Rodeo
  - Kingwood Bible Church
- 9 AM: Kingwood Parade "Honoring Hometown Heroes"
  - Creekwood Middle School
- 10 AM: 51st Forest Cove Parade "An Old Fashioned Fourth"
  - Forest Cove Community Center
- 2 PM: Valley Ranch 4th Fest & Fireworks featuring Pat Green
  - Valley Ranch Town Center
- 2 PM: Kingwood Town Center Festival & Fireworks
  - Kingwood Town Center
- 4 PM: City of Houston "Freedom Over Texas" Celebration
  - Downtown Houston
- 7 PM: King's Harbor Concert + Fireworks
  - King's Harbor

## Friday, July 5th

- 6 PM: 5th of July Fireworks Event
  - The Overlook















Skero's Furniture presents a FREE fireworks show hosted by The Atascocita Golf Club & The Overlook









## **Constituent Resources**

## Need Assistance?

Our office is always ready to assist you. Call or email us and we will do our best to help. Many State Agencies also have hotlines or citizen assistance offices to assist you. That contact information is available at this link, in alphabetical order:

http://www.lrl.texas.gov/genInfo/stateAgencies.cfm

# Live Updates

All of the relevant information our office has gathered during the week will be posted to our Facebook page. By "liking" us, you will stay up-to-date about important matters across the state that affect you and your family. Click below to find our page.



## **Contact Information**

State Representative Dan Huberty Email Dan

Casey Christman

**Capitol Physical Address:** 1100 Congress Avenue E2.408 Austin, TX 78701

4501 Magnolia Cove Suite 201 Kingwood, TX 77345

**District Address:** 

**Capitol Mailing Address:** 

**Chief of Staff** Email Casey

**Jack Reed Legislative Director** Email Jack

**Amy Peterson House Public Education Committee Director** Email Amy

**Chandler Skolnick House Public Education Committee Clerk** Email Chandler

P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768 **District Phone:** 

(281) 360-9410

**Capitol Fax:** 

**Capitol Phone:** (512) 463-0520

(512) 463-1606

 ${\it This news letterwas not sent by State\ expense.}$  ${\it Paid political advertising by Friends of Dan \, Huberty}.$